

DATE: September 30, 1968

TO : Microbial Geneticists

FROM : Joshua Lederberg

SUBJECT:

Hela Bursztyn, my new assistant, is taking over the responsibility of curator of our stock collection. I am eager to see us go back to a reasonable discipline about the maintenance of stocks and records concerning them, obviously to everybody's benefit.

To make this system work it is essential to have everyone cooperate conscientiously with it. I urge you to deposit all significant stocks with her, with complete information about their provenience that will make them available to posterity without need for your personal interpretation. It will not always be possible to do this at the instant a stock is deposited, but Hela will keep in touch with you about each item.

It is also frustrating to have records and stock numbers without the corresponding strains. Preferably, stock numbers should be reserved coincidentally with depositing the corresponding strains with Hela. If you want to reserve a small block of stock numbers, please be sure that she knows your intentions and can be in a position to come back to you again if the strains do not appear within a reasonable time.